



**DIVISION OF MINES
BOARD OF COAL MINING EXAMINERS
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

GENERAL COAL MINER

Article 3 of the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia establishes requirements for certification of coal mine workers. The certification requirements are included in §45.1-161.24 through §45.1-161.41 in which the Board of Coal Mining Examiners is established for the purpose of administering the certification program. The Board has promulgated certification regulations 4 VAC 25-20 (VR 480-04-2), which set the minimum standards and procedures required for Virginia coal miner examinations and certifications.

CERTIFICATION CLASSIFICATION: **General Coal Miner*

This certification authorizes an individual not previously employed in the Commonwealth as a coal miner to work at underground and surface coal mines.

APPLICATION/EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Application (BCME-1) and \$10.00 fee 5 working days prior to examination
- Submit Verification of Training Form (BCME-3) signed by instructor and applicant. This form verifies that training in first aid and Mining Laws of Virginia has been received (2 hour equivalent of first aid training).
- Gas detection required for underground certification
- No experience required

RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:

- Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia
- BCME Requirements
- MSHA Basic First Aid Manual 3
- General Coal Miner Study Guide (Surface or Underground)

Contact: Carroll Green (276) 523-8232

The above mentioned study materials are available at the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Big Stone Gap Office, Customer Assistance Center (276) 523-8233 and Keen Mountain Field Office (276) 498-4533.

*DM will also offer General Miner and gas detection training on Wednesdays at 8:00am at both the Big Stone Gap and Keen Mountain locations. General Miner applicants will submit an application, \$10.00 fee, and verification of current first aid training at this training.